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U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
Case 84690

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of
SPRENGARD-EICHEL ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/778,371 : Group Art Unit: 3761

Filed: February 7, 2001 : Examiner:

Confirmation No.: 6846 :

For: **ABSORBENT ARTICLES WITH THERMAL CELL ACTUATOR**
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, record is being made below in a Form PTO-1449 of documents which the Patent Office may wish to consider in connection with examination of the above-identified patent application. It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be carefully considered by the Examiner and made of record in this case. As provided in §1.97(g), no representation is made or intended that a thorough art search was made. As provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission of any kind, and specifically is not an admission that the documents listed on attached form PTO-1449 are, or are considered to be, material to the patentability of the above-identified patent application, as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

1. **37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(1) - U.S. Direct (within 3-months of filing a regular application or converted provisional)**

This information disclosure statement, submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(1), is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due.

2. **37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(2) - Via PCT (within 3 mo. of Nat'l Stage Entry)**

This information disclosure statement, submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(2), is being filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due.

3. [x] 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(3) - (>3 mo. after filing direct or nat'l stage entry, but before 1st O.A.)

This supplemental information disclosure statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(3). Applicants have not received an Office Action on the merits in the present application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due. However, in the event that this paper is crossing in the mail with a first Office Action on the merits, authorization is hereby given to charge the required fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company. A duplicate of this letter is enclosed to facilitate charging of the fee, if necessary.

THE FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO (2) OR (3) MARKED WITH AN (X) ABOVE.

(a) [] The Notification of Acceptance of this Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 indicates that both a copy of the International Search Report and copies of the references cited therein are present in the national stage file. In accordance with MPEP §1893.03(g), it is respectfully requested that the Examiner note the consideration of these references in the first Office Action via the PTO-892 form.

(b) [] The Notification of Acceptance of this Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 indicates that a copy of the International Search Report is present in the national stage file. Copies of the references cited in that report are enclosed.

(c) [] The Notification of Acceptance of this Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 does not indicate that a copy of the International Search Report and copies of the references cited are present in the national stage file. Copies of the International Search Report and references are attached.

4. [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(4) - (before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114)

This information disclosure statement, submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4), is being filed with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.

5. [] Information to be Considered with CPA Filing. This information disclosure statement is being filed with a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d).

6. [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) with fee payment - (use after 1st Office Action & before Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance)

This information disclosure statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). Applicant(s) have not received a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (e.g., *Ex parte Quayle*) as of the date of this submission. Applicant(s) elect to pay the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account Number 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed to facilitate the charging of the fee.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE NOTED BY THE EXAMINER:

Copies of the cited documents are enclosed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(c), a concise explanation of the relevance of each cited reference that is not in the English language is provided.

Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to consider and make of record the copending applications listed on the attached page.

Additional information is attached.

Respectfully submitted,
FOR: SPRENGARD-EICHEL ET AL.

By Caroline Wei-Berk
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July 30, 2001
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